

**Meeting Minutes – Federal MOU Work Group Meeting  
August 07, 2002 Hannahville Indian Community**

**Attendees**

Casey Ambutas, U.S. EPA (312.353.1394)	Mark Parrish, Pokagon Band (616.782.8998)
Glenn Lamberg, NRCS (231.924.2060 x.110)	David Jones, Huron Band (269.729.5151)
Patty O'Donnell, Grand Traverse (231.271.7368)	Mary Wilson, Grand Traverse (231.271.7945)
Jerry Chilson, Grand Traverse (231.271.7945)	Mark Dziadosz, Grand Traverse (231.271.7742)
Louis Erdrich, IHS (218.444.0507)	Tom Weaver, USGS (906.786.0714)
Jennifer Manville, U.S. EPA (231.922.4769)	Clara Gatewood-Brown, FEMA (312.408.5322)
Sheri Laaksonen, MI ITC (906.635.4208)	Dwight Sargent, MI ITC (906.635.4208)

**Follow-up From May 21, 2002 Meeting**

Update of Tribal/Federal Staff Directory – The BIA has engaged a contractor to work on updating the Directory that was published in October 1999. The goal is to develop a Directory of tribal natural resources, environmental, cultural, and planning staff, as well as, relevant federal agency staff. The project will begin in September 2002, when information forms are distributed at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. A suggestion was made that the Directory should be available in a digital format, and that MOU Work Group agencies should have links to the Directory from their websites. One option for the funds leftover from the August 2000 tribal planning conference would be to pay for the printing and distribution of the Directories.

Tribal Planning Capacity – At the tribal level, there continues to be interest in starting a group for tribal planners, similar to the existing technical groups for tribal environmental staff. The Work Group discussed whether it should facilitate the establishment of a planners group. It was decided that we would offer to assist with coordinating an initial conference call for tribal planners interested in starting a group. Lamberg will develop a list of tribal planning contacts for Michigan, and Manville will do the same for Minnesota and Wisconsin. Manville will make arrangements for a conference line (tentatively scheduled for early October 2002) and send notices out to the tribal planning contacts. A suggestion was made that funds leftover from the August 2000 conference be used to facilitate the establishment of the planners group.

NEPA Training – A multi-agency NEPA training workshop was held in Michigan in May 2002. There have been a number of requests for another session. The training workshops provide an introduction to NEPA concepts, NEPA documents, environmental assessments, and the NEPA process of participating federal agencies. In the past, this training has been jointly presented by the BIA, EPA, USFS, and FWS. The next workshop will likely be at a location in Wisconsin. The training team would like to include other federal agencies. IHS and NRCS both indicated that they have NEPA coordinators. IHS will likely be able to participate in the next workshop.

Consideration of an Amendment to the MOU (meeting frequency and location) – Not all member agencies were represented, so this item was tabled until the next meeting. The Work Group discussed notifying other federal agencies of upcoming meetings. It was agreed that any suggestions for agency contacts be forwarded to Manville. An introductory letter (explain the MOU Work Group and provide information on next meeting) will be prepared and sent to any identified agency contacts.

### **New List of Federally-Recognized Tribes**

A Federal Register notice dated July 12, 2002 “Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs”, was distributed. No changes were noted for the Great Lakes region. The newly-issued list includes 562 tribal entities.

### **Federal Agency Strategic Planning Under GPRA**

The Government Performance and Results Act requires agencies to develop 5-year strategic plans that include a mission statement and long-term goals/objectives. Agency budgets correspond to the goals/objectives. Each agency was asked to summarize its strategic planning efforts and indicate how tribal interests are included in the process.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – U.S. EPA’s first strategic plan was developed in 1997, with an update in 2000. Tribal needs were generally ignored in the first two versions – the documents didn’t capture tribally-relevant program needs or tribal-capacity building activities. The next version is due to Congress by September 30, 2003. While Headquarters controls the process, Region 5 is attempting to submit material to include in the plan. In June, a staff level group was convened to identify overall goals/end results for Indian Country. This information was shared with the tribes and then submitted to Headquarters. Recently Headquarters announced our major goals for the strategic plan: clean air, clean water, clean land, communities and ecosystems, compliance and environmental stewardship. This fall, the Agency will have a draft strategic plan structure and will be soliciting input from partners (including tribes) and stakeholders.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – As a result of GPRA, NRCS created an automated computer reporting system called Performance and Reporting Management System (PRMS). The Agency uses PRMS to track tribal initiatives and participation in services and programs. It allows NRCS to track interaction with tribal governments tribal groups, amount of participation by tribes, individuals, amount of money spent on tribal lands, and types of practices used. Through the use of PRMS and the state technical committees, NRCS is continuously collecting information from tribes and updating the Agency’s strategic plan. Wisconsin has formed a subcommittee to their technical committee, comprised of representatives from each of the tribes. There are plans to promote this concept in Michigan as well. NRCS is still in the process of collecting ideas and comments regarding the performance and reporting system. Input can be sent to Fred Reaves, with copies to Lamberg.

Indian Health Service – The Agency has a national strategic plan and an area plan (available on the website). There are 15 GPRA indicators (water, wastewater, environmental health, etc.). IHS reviews the strategic plan and receives input during annual meetings with tribal health directors. Input received is sent to Headquarters. IHS has found that it is critical to develop achievable and measurable indicators. Currently the Agency is on its second 5-year plan.

U.S. Geological Survey – The Agency has state-wide strategic plans that cover approximately 5 years. While there may be a Great Lakes regional plan, Agency representative is not aware of a national plan.

Federal Emergency Management Agency – The Agency recently completed the national plan, with input from the regions. Typically, the tribal liaison collects information regarding tribes from each of FEMA’s programs and then forwards this information to Headquarters. The five tribal governments currently receiving funding from FEMA were also involved in the planning process.

The Work Group discussed whether it would be useful to coordinate the strategic planning information across the Agencies, in order to determine where there are overlapping activities, and to provide tribes with a resource to use to identify assistance available from the Agencies. It was agreed that next meeting, each Agency would bring a copy of its current strategic plan, and the Work Group would discuss how a summary document could be structured to show the common activities across agency strategic plans (for example, categorize by type of activity – identification, documentation, implementation, etc.).

### **Tribal Open Forum**

Grand Traverse Band suggested that Work Group consider water quantity issues at its next meeting. With the commercial withdrawal of groundwater from the Great Lakes region, how can tribes address their concerns about impacts to tribal resources and the environment? Some questions for the discussion: which federal agencies are involved and how, what federal requirements apply, what has been the federal response to date, what authorities do tribes have.

Earlier in the meeting, the Work Group discussed development of a “water issues” spreadsheet similar to the spreadsheet that was maintained for solid waste issues. The solid waste spreadsheet summarized by tribe the solid waste needs and funded projects by BIA, EPA, HUD, and IHS. It served as a tool for the federal agencies and tribes to coordinate solid waste programs. It has been suggested in the past that a similar effort be undertaken for water program issues. Grand Traverse Band recommended that this issue be on the agenda for the next Work Group meeting.

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan recommended that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be invited to participate in future meetings. Sargent will get Agency contact information to Manville.

### **Announcements of Upcoming Training or Meetings**

09/04/02	U.S. EPA R5 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (hosted by Saginaw Chippewa Tribe)
09/09-12/02	Midwest Regional meeting of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (hosted by White Earth Tribe)
09/09-14/02	National Atmospheric Deposition Program Symposium (Seattle, Washington)
09/11-12/02	U.S. EPA Minor Source New Source Review National Meeting (Keshena, Wisconsin)
09/16-20/02	Meeting of the U.S. EPA National Tribal Operations Committee (Washington, D.C.)
09/19-20/02	U.S. EPA Minor Source New Source Review National Meeting (Flagstaff, AZ)
09/25-26/02	U.S. EPA Minor Source New Source Review National Meeting (Uncasville, CT)
10/02-03/02	U.S. EPA Minor Source New Source Review National Meeting (Rochester, WA)
10/10/02	U.S. EPA WasteWise annual meeting (Washington, D.C.)
10/15-?/02	Meeting of the National Tribal Air Association (Kansas City, Kansas)
10/16-18/02	Introduction to Groundwater Investigation (hosted by Fond du lac Tribe)
10/16-18/02	State of the Lakes Environmental Conference (Cleveland, Ohio)
10/20-22/02	National Forum on Contaminants in Fish Advisory Programs (Burlington, Vermont)
11/18-20/02	National Groundwater Foundation Conference (Eugene, Oregon)
11/19-21/02	National Tribal Environmental Compliance Conference II (Kansas City, KS)

The new IHS training calendar for FY 2003 can be accessed from the Internet ([www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov)). For a hard copy, please contact Erdrich. USGS operates a training center in Denver, Colorado, which offers a wide variety of courses that are open to federal agency personnel and tribes. For more information on the types of courses available, please contact Weaver.

## **Federal and Tribal Agency Roundtable Updates**

Federal Emergency Management Agency – The Agency now has an environmental officer. There are pre-mitigation funds available for tribes. To be eligible, a tribe needs to have developed a risk plan. Grand Traverse Band was the first tribe to qualify for the funds.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – The second annual Protectors of the Earth Camp began this week. The purpose of the camp is to encourage tribal youth to get involved in natural resource careers. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community has established the first tribal conservation district in Michigan. There should be a signing ceremony later this year.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – The Agency is beginning a national rulemaking process for “minor source new source review”, which will focus on smaller sources of air pollution from new businesses or existing businesses that are making changes to equipment/operations. Businesses that could be affected include gas stations, dry cleaners, spray paint operations, and automotive repair shops. U.S. EPA currently has authority to regulate large sources in Indian Country, but no permitting authority for “minor sources”, which cumulatively can have significant impacts to air quality.

Executive Order Tribal Colleges and Universities was provided as a handout. Identified agencies are to develop and implement 3-year plans that include increasing capacity of tribal colleges to compete for grants/contracts and encouraging tribal colleges to participate in federal programs.

Indian Health Service – A new interim Director, Chuck Grim has been appointed. The announcement of the permanent Director should be made by the end of the year. There is no longer a discussion of consolidating environmental health programs with the Department of Health and Human Services. A new IHS-U.S. EPA Inter-Agency Agreement has been signed (regional agreement for funding decisions). Bioterrorism plans for Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have been reviewed for involvement of tribal communities. Wisconsin and Minnesota received passing grades, Michigan failed. There is a new field engineer in the Grand Rapids, Michigan office.

## **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next meeting of the Work Group will be November 06, 2002. The NRCS has volunteered to host the meeting, and will arrange for meeting space in either Green Bay or Madison. Potential agenda topics identified for the next meeting include:

- Use of the funds remaining from the August 2000 Tribal Planning Conference
- Consideration of an amendment to the MOU concerning meeting frequency and location
- Review of Agency strategic plans and development of a cross-reference document
- Water quantity issues in the Great Lakes region
- Development of a “water issues” spreadsheet

Suggestions for additional agenda items should be forwarded to Manville at fax number (231.922.4499) or via e-mail at [manville.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:manville.jennifer@epa.gov).